



Shrewsbury Public Library

Winter 2006-7 News & Events

A Note from the Director...

Little things sometime reflect thinking about larger issues. This could be said of the new "busy basket" located on the bench across from the main circulation desk at the library. The basket, filled with books, toys and other fun distractions is meant to provide parents a way to keep little minds and hands busy while families are waiting to check out books. The basket was placed there after a recent staff discussion when one staff member relayed her conversation with a parent who said some of her friends with children don't like to check books out of our library. They noted that it's difficult to manage very young children while waiting to check out materials. Library staff acknowledged the frustration parents must feel, and also voiced concern that staff members sometimes see children in precarious situations and feel awkward stepping in.

It is a challenge. How do we best serve families with young children, making them feel welcome and comfortable, while addressing concerns about dangers such as closing automatic doors, entry gates that can tip over and a tall staircase that would make for a bad tumble? Part of this answer will come in the proposed new building, when we will have adequate space to provide distinct service areas. But how do we address this concern in the current building and balance concern and liability issues with the desire to offer a welcoming and friendly atmosphere?

One simple suggestion that emerged from our discussion was to provide the basket of diversions. We put the toy basket out in late September, and it was an immediate hit with kids and parents.

We also discussed that when staff members notice children in danger, it's preferable to speak to parents, not children directly. Few parents want to have their children addressed by another adult. Of course, if a child is in immediate danger, staff will intervene in the most expedient manner possible.

Staff also discussed that we should let parents know that they don't need to remain at the desk while items are being checked out. Pulling a toddler back from the precipice of a stairwell or in a near escape to the parking lot is surely more important than waiting at the desk for items to be checked out.

We also heard that parents find it hard to pick out items for their own enjoyment. In this case, we'd like to remind parents of the great convenience of our online catalog, which allows one to search and request items online. A leisurely search from your home computer, while sitting in a comfy robe and slippers and sipping a cup of tea, is much preferable to chasing a toddler through the nonfiction book stacks while trying to pick out your next biography.

Library visits should be a regular occurrence in all children's lives. Early experience with reading and books is vital to developing early literacy skills and a lifetime habit of reading. Libraries must be seen as fun, exciting places, if children are to continue to feel welcome in libraries as they

Come In and Visit!

Holiday Open House

The Friends of the Library are hosting, and you're invited! Stop by on Saturday, December 2 between 9am and 12pm for some festive fun. There will be crafts, music, food, and merriment for all. There may even be a surprise or two!

Family Ornament Workshop

Join us on Monday, Dec. 4, at 7pm for some creative holiday fun. Recommended for children in grades K-4 and their families. One adult may work with up to two children. Space is limited; registration required. Sign up in the Children's Room, or by calling us at 508-542-0081 x4.

Shrewsbury Artist's Prints

SPL has purchased a number of art prints of original works by Shrewsbury artist John M. Gaston. Join us on Saturday, December 9 from 2 to 4pm to celebrate the introduction of these new pieces into the library's collection. Meet the artist, see the new prints you can borrow, and enjoy some refreshments.

For more events, see inside...

grow and develop. Our robust range of children's services, programs and collections is designed to establish that early connection. We cannot let the location and arrangement of our circulation desk be an impediment to that goal.

We will continue to assess this challenge and look for new ideas and ways to serve all library users, especially our youngest visitors and their parents. We invite parents (the true experts) to offer ideas on how we could make library visits less stressful and more rewarding for you and your family.

Respectfully,

Ellen M. Dolan
Library Director

Children's Room News

DISCOVERY KITS HAVE ARRIVED! Check out our new Discovery Kits designed for children being schooled at home or students in Grades 2 -4. We have assembled thirteen kits on various topics. Each kit contains a variety of items created for learning and fun. The contents of the kits will vary, and may include DVDs, CD-ROMs, games, models and puzzles as well as books. Kits may be checked out for 3 weeks. Teachers using their teacher cards may arrange for a longer period if needed. The kits were developed with LSTA funds through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

HANUKKAH PROGRAM

Monday, Dec. 18, 4pm—Come listen to stories and do a craft to celebrate Hanukkah. Recommended for children in grades K-4. Space is limited. Registration begins December 4 in the Children's Room or by calling 508-842-0081 x4.

DIVERSITY DAY

To commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, **Tuesday, Jan. 16** will be Diversity Day in the Children's Room. (No school—Professional Development day.) Throughout the day, we'll be offering fun fact sheets, activities, and crafts pertaining to countries on different continents. Children can get their passports stamped after they "travel" to each country.

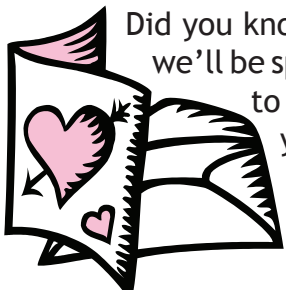
December Vacation

Keep track of your reading in your own Reading Log Book! Pick yours up on **December 1**, and bring it in during vacation week to get a prize. On **December 26**, come and watch at movie at 1pm. There will be poetry and craft activities for children in grades K and up on **December 27 and 28** at 10:30am. Space is limited; required registration begins **December 13**.

Coming in February...

There will be a special craft and storytime to celebrate Groundhog Day on Thursday, **February 1**. On Tuesday, **February 6** we will have Valentines for Vets—show a veteran your appreciation by making a fancy card! On Thursday, **February 15**, we will have a program to celebrate Chinese New Year. Children can relax and watch a movie on Friday, **February 23**, the last day of February vacation.

Did you know that Pluto was discovered on February 18, 1930? To celebrate, we'll be spending February vacation week "Going to the Outer Limits." Come to the Children's Room **February 1-15** to get your Reading Log Book, your activity schedule for the week, and sign up for craft programs. Be prepared to read a little science fiction, create your own robot, watch a "space" movie, and have an "out of this world" time.



Storytimes

Baby and Me Storytime

A 30-minute program of stories, finger plays, songs, and movement designed for children ages birth to 2½ with an accompanying adult. Program starts at 10:30am. Siblings welcome.

Session One

Tuesdays, Jan. 9, 16,
23 and 30

Session Two

Tuesdays, Feb 27,
March 6, 13, and 20

Due to limited space, a lottery will be held for each session. Lottery for **Session One**: Dec. 19-26, lottery for **Session Two**: Feb. 13-20.

Preschool Storytime

Ancient Civilizations: Learn about ancient civilizations through stories and crafts. Ages 3 to 6. No registration necessary.

Thursdays at 10:30am, December 7, 14, and 21; January 11, 18, and 25; February 1, 8, and 15.

Lunch Bunch Storytime

Friday, Jan. 12 and Friday, Feb. 9, 11:30am

A blanket, a lunch, and you! Come and listen to stories while you eat.

Young Adult News

(for students in grades 5 through 12)

New FREE Homework Help!

Is there anything more annoying than homework? Yes, there is—homework that you can't figure out! To help you out, we've started offering **LIVE HOMEWORK HELP!** Now you can chat online with a licensed tutor and get that homework done in no time. **LIVE HOMEWORK HELP** is available



from 4pm to 10pm every day, and can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection—just click on the link on the library website and enter your library card number. It's easy and free! Give it a try and let us know what you think.

New Volunteer Training Sessions

Interested in volunteering at the library? We need fun, energetic, and responsible teens to help us out! Fill out an application at the front desk and bring it to an orientation session. (All prospective volunteers must participate in an orientation session and pass a CORI check prior to volunteering.) This is a great way to help your community and earn community service hours!

Winter orientation sessions:

Dec. 7 at 3:30pm Jan. 9 at 3:30pm Feb. 8 at 3:30pm
Dec. 20 at 6:30pm Jan. 24 at 6:30pm Feb. 21 at 6:30pm

Orientation sessions will last 30 to 45 minutes.

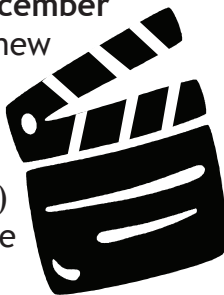
For more information, contact Sarah Sogigian at ssogigia@cwmares.org.



Curious about SPLAT?
<http://splatspl.blogspot.com>

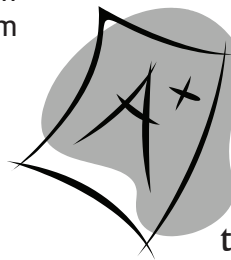
YA Book & Movie Chats

December's YA Book Chat selection is *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini. Come to the library to discuss the book on **Thursday, December 14 at 3:30pm**. Then, go see the new movie in a theatre with the group on **Friday, December 15**. (Note: Due to movie release dates and locations, this date may change!) Registration is required and can be done at the library's front desk, or by calling 508.842.0081 x3.



What do you want to read? Suggest titles for January and February teen book chats via email (ssogigia@cwmares.org) or aim: SarahAtSPL.

10 easy ways to impress your teachers



Want to impress your teachers this year? Want to learn how to do library research at home? Come to one of our info sessions

for some quick, easy tips on doing library research:

Dec. 13 at 6pm, Jan. 16 at 3:30pm, Feb. 20 at 3pm

Each session will last an hour, and will guide you through the exotic jungle otherwise known as the Reference department. For students in grades 9-12; registration is required and can be done at the front desk or by calling the library.

 **spl is on
myspace**

www.myspace.com/splatatspl

SPL for Adults: News & Events

Adult Services Advisory Committee

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7pm—SPL is looking for adults to join ADSAC, our new Adult Services Advisory Committee. Have you enjoyed some of our special programs for adults? ADSAC Members will help plan future library events and activities. Light refreshments will be served.

Shrewsbury Genealogy Club

Mondays, Dec. 11, Jan. 22, and Feb. 26 at 7:30pm

Whether you're just beginning or well advanced in your family history quest, join us for shared ideas, tips, and (occasionally) refreshments!

Free Computer Workshops and Drop-in Help Sessions

The library offers free computer workshops and drop-in computer help sessions on an ongoing basis. Topics include mouse and keyboarding skills, Word Processing, Web Browsing, Email, Internet Research, using the Library Catalog, and more. Schedules are available at the library and on the library's website.

Pre-registration is required. Please stop by the front desk or call us at 508-842-0081 ext. 3 for info and registration.

French Conversation Circle

Join a group of Francophiles and brush up on your conversational skills as we talk about current events, French cooking, or anything else of common interest. Meetings are on the second Monday of every month, 4-5:30pm.

Personality Plus

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7pm—The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is a commonly used tool for helping people recognize and make better use of their individual differences. Come take the test and learn more about yourself in an enjoyable and non-threatening environment.

Science Fiction Book Chats

Dec. 6: *The Lathe of Heaven*
by Ursula Le Guin

Jan. 3: *The Dark Design*
by Philip José Farmer

Feb. 7: *The Poison Belt*
by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

All Sci Fi Book Chats start at 7pm.

Eclectic Browsers Book Group

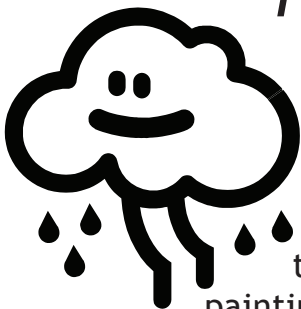
Meetings are the fourth Thursday of every month at 10:30am. Books are available at the front desk one month prior to book group meetings. Snacks are provided, and new members are always welcome.

Dec. 21: *Plain and Simple: A Woman's Journey to the Amish* by Sue Bender

Jan. 25: *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert

Feb. 22: *Swallows of Kabul* by Yasmina Khadra

Thank You, Spirit of Shrewsbury Float Volunteers!



Did you attend the Spirit of Shrewsbury parade in the pouring rain on October 1? We hope you saw the beautiful library float, created by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Float Committee members included Barbara Carpenter, Carol Cullen, Gail Aslanian, Tom Biggins, Ken Milley, Melanie Cramer, Laurie Hogan, Swee Williams, and Bonnie O'Brien. Special thanks to Swee Williams who designed and painted the fantastic oversized paintings of the historic Howe Library and the super-sized Mother Goose Book.

Even the pouring rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the volunteers, library staff and teen members of SPLAT who marched with the outstanding parade entry. Thank you to all.

Rediscover Your Library: Technology at SPL

In this "RYL" column, we wish to highlight technology in libraries. While it's clear that computers and technology have greatly impacted the way librarians perform their work, what might be less obvious is the great way that technology has benefited library users. One great advantage is that you can now search the library catalog from any location at which you have internet access:

<http://cmars.cwmars.org/search~S49/>

You can use our online catalog to search the collections of over 140 libraries in central and western Massachusetts. Best of all, once you find a desired item, you can place an electronic reserve on the item and have it sent here for pickup. This service is incredibly popular. Close to 19,000 books, audio books, movies and other library items were requested electronically by Shrewsbury patrons last year. Through the online catalog, you can also renew your borrowed items and avoid overdue fees. You can even review museum passes available for Shrewsbury residents and book them online at <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library/passess.asp>

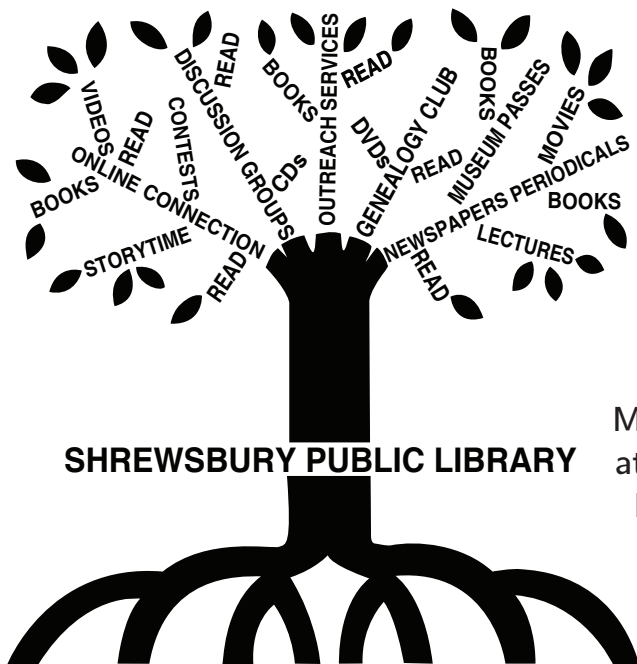
But there are other ways that library users have benefited from technology in libraries. Take a look at the wide range of electronic reference sources found on our website: <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library/reference>. These incredibly rich online reference databases give you authoritative, current and understandable information on a variety of topics: health, automotive, genealogy, consumer, business and finance, biography, science and more, anywhere you have internet access, any time of the day or night.



Your library card also gives you access to downloadable audio books that you can listen to on your MP3 player. (Downloadable video is coming soon.) You can also find a reference librarian 24 hours per day, 7 days per week through a link on our website to MassAnswers, a real-time chat based reference service. And one of our newest online services is a free homework support service for students in grades four through early college. (See page 3 for more info.)

Though nothing replaces the comfort of relaxing with a great book, these great online services provide convenience and access that are so vital to so many.

Friends Seeking New Members



You are invited to join the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. The Friends is a nonprofit organization that supports special programs at the Library. Some of these activities include Children and Adult programs, Family Concerts on the Common, Museum Passes, the Annual High School Scholarship and the Annual Major Leagues Library Cookout.

Meetings are held at the library, on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm. Upcoming meeting dates are **January 9, February 13, and March 13**. Applications are available at the front desk, or on the library's website.

We look forward to having you join us!

Shrewsbury Public Library
609 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #192
Worcester, MA 01613

ECRWSS
Resident Customer
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Library Hours

Mon.-Wed. 10am-9pm
Thurs.-Sat. 9am-5pm
Sun. 1-5pm

Contact Information

Phone: 508-842-0081
Fax: 508-841-8540
TTY: 508-841-8530

<http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>

SUNDAYS ARE BACK!

Sunday hours at the library were eliminated due to budget cuts two years ago. Fortunately, a group of generous sponsors helped restore the season last year, and the generosity continues again this year. With this great community support, the Sunday season at the Shrewsbury Public Library began on October 1, 2006.

As of October 27, 2006, the following businesses and community groups have donated funds to sponsor Sunday hours. Additional sponsorships are welcomed. The cost for sponsoring one Sunday is \$500. Please contact the Library Director at (508) 841-8537 if you wish to provide a sponsorship or need more information.

Sunday Sponsors

Six Sundays

Dunkin Donuts & Baskin Robbins

Two Sundays

Shrewsbury Lions Club

**Central One Federal Credit Union
Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union**

Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library

One Sunday

EVA Subscription Services Inc.

Brian Smith/Spectros Associates

Shrewsbury Garden Club

Polito Development Corporation

Rotary Club of Shrewsbury

Building 19 Shrewsbury

ADVISE/League of Women Voters

Ken Milley, Chair Maker

Carol N. Andrews/Realtor, RE/MAX First Choice

Heisler & Mattson Properties

Thank you to our generous sponsors!